

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

October 5, 2006

(Approved November 2, 2006)

Members Present: Karen Schlitzer, Brad Simpkins, Michael Williams, Carl Roediger, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Peter Russell, George Sykes.

Members Absent: Edward Murdough, Earl Sweeney, Al Burbank, John Hoglund, Joseph Butts, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary; Eric Perry, EMS Field Services Representative.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. September 7, 2006. *Motion* was made by Commissioner Carrier, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the Minutes of the September 7, 2006 Commission Meeting: Motion passed, with Commissioner Schlitzer abstaining as she did not attend that meeting.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Duquette announced that Chief Rick Walker of Barrington was in a head-on motor vehicle collision. Commissioner Roediger added that he had heard that Chief Walker was released from the hospital to a rehab center. On Sunday, October 15 Chief Walker's fire department is holding a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for him.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chair Duquette stated that Chief Prentiss is in West Virginia. Eric Perry, EMS Field Service Representative, attended the meeting to answer any questions that the Commission members might have regarding Emergency Medical Services. There were no questions.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan was absent; no report was given.

Commissioner Carrier reported that he is working with the Fire Marshal's Office and with Health & Human Services regarding residential care homes. The process is bogged down. Everyone agrees that the homes should have hard-wired smoke detectors. However, sprinklers may be a major concern, especially money wise. Commissioner Carrier said that Director Degnan is working with Commissioner John Stephens.

Commissioner Carrier stated that a list of home locations has been sent to the fire chiefs, but training has not been done.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave the following report:

- (a) Fires to date: 469
Acres to date: 490
- (b) We conducted a very interesting burn to restore endangered Tern habitat on the Isles of Shoals. Four rangers, along with members of Fish and Game, were ferried by boat to Seavey Island. Rangers burned approximately two acres of grass/shrub habitat to get rid of invasive species that colonized the island and prevented successful nesting for the birds. This prescribed burn was part of an ongoing relationship between our Division and the Department of Fish and Game to use fire as a tool to improve and restore wildlife habitat.

- (c) The 2007 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants are being mailed out. We have approximately \$36,000 to disburse to rural communities this year. The applications will be due back to our office no later than December 1. The towns that are awarded the grant funds will be notified prior to the first of the year.
- (d) This past weekend was the annual wildland fire training weekend. This year it was held at Fox State Forest in Hillsborough. Classes offered included chainsaw recertification, squad boss, intermediate wildland fire behavior, land navigation, and an ATV rider course. The squad boss and fire behavior courses were identified this past year as being critical courses that we needed to offer in order to bolster our out-of-state crew resources. The Division has already started to assemble a six-person committee to start developing next year's training. The plans for next year are to have a full weekend large fire simulation, similar to the past Bear Brook weekends.

Item 4. Curriculum Review.

- (a) NFPA 1030 Series, Inspector/Investigator/Public Education: Commissioner Sykes stated that he had nothing new to add. There is interest in a Fire Inspector II program. Commissioner Sykes said the Visiting Committee should be ready to do a presentation in December.
- (b) NFPA 1041, Instructor: Commissioner Carrier reported that they have classes scheduled.
- (c) C2F2 Review Committee: Chief Rosolen stated that they are looking at skills evaluations. They also discussed holding the orientation class six to eight weeks before C2F2. Part of that orientation would include skills evaluation as individuals.

The C2F2 Review Committee will hold another meeting before the November Commission meeting. They would like to meet with Bob Irish, Mark Lemay, and Dick Martel since they have worked quite a bit with C2F2.

Chair Duquette said that his concern would be that they are adding eight hours to the program by doing an orientation early. The students should be maintaining the skills they learned in Firefighter I and II.

Item 5. Hiring Practices Committee. Commissioner Williams reported that he and Commissioner Burbank are attempting to meet with Chief Chris Pope on his thesis. They will use a lot of the State Police hiring practices.

In answer to a question, Commissioner Simpkins said that police officers have either six months or one year to complete their academy after they are hired.

Item 6. Academy Awards. Commissioner Carrier reported that they are good to go for the Academy Awards. The schedule for the day is:

- 3:00 p.m. Commission Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal and Pictures
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Academy Awards Ceremony

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #104. The Director's Report #104 for October 5, 2006 was as follows:

We have jumped right into a busy season after summer ended. Several FFI & II classes, Rescue Systems, Entrance Test, etc! All real good things for the NH Fire Service.

1) COMMITTEE OF MERIT

The annual NH Fire & EMS Committee of Merit will hold their annual awards and recognition ceremony at the Capitol Center for the Arts at 6:30pm on October 11, 2006...all are invited.

2) PERSONNEL

September 28, 2006 saw the end of an era at the Fire Academy...Facility Manager Don Phillips retired. He had this facility under control and I know we still have his phone number if needed! This position will be posted soon.

Captain Dean Chandler has submitted his intent to retire on December 1, 2006.

EMS Training Coordinator David Dow has notified us of his intent to retire as well, originally December 1, 2006, however a medical condition will probably dictate an earlier date.

3) C2F2 COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chief Rosolen and Captain Anderson are assembling all documents used in the C2F2 program and will submit to the Committee to review this program. The final Visiting Committee report has been sent to all Commission members.

4) NH FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

The dedication ceremony for the NH Fallen Firefighter Memorial was at 11:00am on September 10, 2006 with almost 1,000 in attendance. Governor Lynch and Commissioner Flynn spoke about its importance and commended Gary Lambert and his brothers for their hard work in its completion. Former NHFSTC Chairman Paul Fortier was the Master of Ceremonies.

5) FIRE-RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

I attended the Fire-Rescue International Conference in Dallas September 11-17, 2006. I was fortunate enough to be on the faculty for the pre-conference Seminars. My topic was the Chief Fire Officer Designation program. Many from NH attended and total conference attendees topped 22,000.

6) ACADEMY AWARDS

Just a reminder that our next meeting includes the Annual Academy Awards Ceremony. Our meeting November 2, 2006 will be at 3:00pm, rehearsal and pictures at 5:00pm, Dinner at 5:30pm, ceremony at 7:00pm. Congressman Jeb Bradley will be on hand to assist with the presentation to Periklis Karoutas and National Fire Academy Superintendent, Dr. Denis Onieal will be in attendance.

7) NORTH AMERICAN FIRE TRAINING DIRECTORS (NAFTD)

The annual meeting of the NAFTD concludes tonight in Saratoga Springs, NY and I will head back to NH first thing tomorrow morning. I have served as the Association's Secretary for about four-years and plan to remain in this position for another year. Go to www.NAFTD.org to see more about the group.

This conflict caused the fourth time I have missed a Commission Meeting in the last 10 years!

8) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

We are working on the terminology changes for the Administrative Rules that were discussed last month. As soon as this is completed we will send the changes to you.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Administrative Rules: Discussion will be held next month.

Item 2. CPAT Rule. Commissioner Sykes asked if someone would have to go through CPAT again if they went from one department to another. He said he knows it has been a subject for this Commission before, and he has been working on it with Commissioners Burbank and Pratt.

Chief Phillips noted that at the September meeting the Commission had received a request from Lt. Scott Carrigan asking if a new firefighter he hired was required to take C2F2. Commissioner Carrier said that the firefighter would have to go to C2F2. He noted that Director Mason was going to follow up on that.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Advertisements for Firefighters. Commissioner Williams asked if a department may advertise for firefighters for a lateral transfer

only. Chair Duquette answered that they may. Commissioner Williams noted that it would save the departments money to be able to do that.

Item 2. Retirement. Commissioner Sykes reported that he is planning to retire in February 2007.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Chris DeWolfe. Chair Duquette reported that Chris DeWolfe's name will be put on the wall at the National Fire Academy.

Item 2. Commissioner Russell. Commissioner Russell announced that today is his last Commission meeting. He has worked on the Commission for ten years. He stated he has learned a lot and enjoyed it. He thanked everyone. He is not sure who his successor will be.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Carrier, seconded by Commissioner Pratt, to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 10/05/06
2. Minutes of Meeting – 06/01/06 – Approved 09/07/06
3. Minutes of Meeting – 09/07/06 – Not Approved
4. Minutes of Public Hearing – 06/01/06 – Approved 09/07/06
5. Director's Report #104—October 5, 2006
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/06 to 10/05/06
7. C2F2 Visiting Committee Final Report—March 28, 2003
8. 2006 Entrance Test Statistics